LAMPE

Felix Dahn's
Ein Kampf um Rom

German
A. M.

1900

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OF Master of Arts.

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Chap. V. p. 56.
The Literary Value of the Work.
A As a historic picture. B. Unity.
C. Sustained interest. D Psychological elements. E Individuality of characters.
F Types of Womanhood. G. Tendency towards sensationalism.

Chap. VI. p. 70.
A- The author's reasons for marked deviations from history. B- His failure to appreciate certain causes of the Fall of the Gothic Kingdom. C- His purpose. D Value of the work as a whole.

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Introduction.

One of the most important periods in the studies of the revolutionary epochs in the world's history is the "Völkerwanderung" or migration of central European tribes. This took place during the earlier years of the Middle Ages. The struggle between the Goths, one of the most migratory nations, and the dying Roman Empire is the subject of Felix Dahn's "Kampf um Rom", a novel which deals almost exclusively with historical characters.

Chapter I

History of the Goths.

Origin. — Reasons for migration. — Wanderings. — Division into two nations. — Conquests. — Character of their rule. — Ostrogothic Kings. — Struggles. — Fall and its causes. — Extinction.

Not. The sketch of Gothic history here given is compiled from various statements of individual historians agreed at every point with all reliable [illegible] and his outline of this history of Rome. [See "Procopius von Cäsarea," beg. at p. 4.]

[illegible] Germanic and that the Christian [illegible]
had accordingly to see Incarnation in [illegible]

The Celtic [illegible]
tant among all the tribes contributing to the
disintegration of the Roman Empire. Reputa-
[illegible]
Europe from Scandinavia and others that
Niebuhr says emphatically that the truth can-
not be found in Scandinavian chronicles stat-
ing [illegible] various [illegible]
to 1000 B.C. (1) According to their own traditions,
their [illegible] Scandinavia; [illegible]
the Baltic, they had moved successively to
banks of the Vistula, through the Sarmatian
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] their migration to Central
Europe, the [illegible] were divided into
the East and West Goths (Ostro- and Visi-goths),
[illegible] several related tribes, notably the Heruli, Rugians, Gepidae and Vandals, were at different
times more or less subject to the Gothic nation.

While on the [illegible] of the Danube the [illegible]
the Romans, made rude beginnings in intellec-
tual culture. Their [illegible]
for upon them fell the brunt of the invasion of
the Huns, coming in dense, wave-like masses
from Asia. All [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
possible possession of parts both of the eastern
[illegible]
the "barbarians", notably Decius, who was defeated
and killed in battle in 251 A.D. The
Emperor Gallienus finally made peace with the
Goths and ceded Dacia to them in 270 A.D.

took possession of Italy and Rome in 476 A.D.

The Visigothic conquest and migration and the establishment of a separate Kingdom extending from the Loire to the south coast of Spain. This was but a few years before the landing of the Anglo-Saxons in Britain, (Skirmish between Hengist and Vortigern) and the establishment of their kingdoms in Britain.

A second grand eruption of Huns, under Attila "The Scourge of God", brought with it terrible war and bloodshed to Germany, Gaul and Italy. In 451 A.D., Attila, with his Huns, Ostrogoths, Gepidae, Heruli, Rugians, Thuringians and other tribes from the region of the Danube, invaded Gaul. His army was met on the Catalaunian Plains near Chalons by the combined forces of the Romans under Aetius and the Visigoths. The fortunes of the battle were now in favor of the Huns, now of the Romans.

In 476 A.D., Odoacer, (Odovakar) ruler of the Heruli and dependent Gothic tribes, the Rugians, Sciri, &c.

Odoacer, the barbarian king of Italy, [illegible]
[illegible] of Roman Emperors, he had been commander of the barbaric mercenaries. He was the because, from 476 A.D. on, their payment with [illegible] or in part, these hirelings demanded [illegible] of land. This was refused. There [illegible] lands and made Odoacer ruler of Italy.

[illegible] Heruleans sank under the sword of Theodoric the Ostrogothic King of the House of Amal. [illegible] Italy in the [illegible] of the Odoacer in 489 A.D. was the result of crafty scheming [illegible]. He [illegible] the fertile lands of the Danube, since [illegible] [illegible] Odoacer [illegible] Theodoric [illegible]

[illegible] 493 A.D. to the Romans. [illegible] invited to a feast and there assassinated.

[illegible] Theodoric thus became ruler over Italy, Sicily, Dalmatia, Noricum, Rhaetia and parts of Pannonia. He desired to organize all [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

...men of both nations [illegible] the ...
...the King. His work as an [illegible] ...
...reformer he chiefly delegated to the [illegible] ...
...and Roman Senators, and organized ...
...schools in a fashion that remained orthodox ...
...for centuries. [illegible]

For centuries the Romans has not been so well off as under the judicious rule of Theodoric. ... [illegible] ... Arian — hence a heretic. His toleration ... [illegible] ... faith did not disarm ... [illegible] ... About this time, the Bish...

...[illegible] ... Both this was close enough ... [illegible] ... the world had become accustomed to look toward ... [illegible] ... spiritual dominion. ...

from the rules; i.e. 475.

Theodoric, embittered by the hostility [illegible]
[illegible], committed the one deed which stains his
[illegible]; he executed the senators Boethius and
Symmachus on suspicion of conspiring to re-
store the power to the Romans. Their innocence
[illegible] 526 A.D.

The Fall of the Goths began with the death of Theodoric. It has even been said that his death was their fall, for the whole nation centred in this one man.(6) The true reason seems to be that he was the only Gothic ruler who honestly strove for the greatest good to all his subjects regardless of race.

On his death-bed, Theodoric divided his kingdom between his two grandsons. Athalaric, a child of nine years, who died at the age of sixteen in consequence of dissipation. His mother Amalasuntha reigned in his stead. Her position was an unfortunate one. She had to keep the disaffected Romans and the [illegible] Goths. The latter not only objected to

educating her son in Roman fashion
preparing to demand the right of the peo
to choose their rule. In ancient times, the nobi
maintained hereditary right based upon de
sent from the Gods. Recognizing as leader
this seditious movement
to death. This enraged all the Goths. After her
death, the
al, co-regent, with the private stip
that she retain all the
the murdered nobles, whose suf
to gain by thus giving the
now saw his opportunity. On the pre
of avenging Amalasuntha, he sent marri

but, showing cowardly inexperience with the enemy, was forced by a public assembly of the Goths. They then raised to the throne Vitigis, an old warrior distinguished for personal valor. He immediately the nobles were forced to marry Matasuntha, the grand-daughter of Theodoric. He next hastened to besiege Rome. Matasuntha repeated reinforcements. The result was that Vitigis was forced to withdraw after suffering the loss of men. His stupid mismanagement and the cowardice of the Goths themselves lost them one place after another, [illegible] Goths themselves into the hands Vitigis and his wife were sent in exile, the latter [illegible] favor of the Emperor.

[illegible] by the jealous and [illegible]
Justinian, the national hero [illegible]
[illegible]. They unanimously op-
[illegible] to Brains, a man of great [illegible]
the disgrace of his uncle Witiges and urged
[illegible]
[illegible] in of his wife, who was jealous of the wife
of Brains. The people were enraged and
[illegible] ated at a banquet.

The new King, Erarich, set up by
the [illegible] was [illegible]
[illegible] of the people. His reign was
[illegible] glorious victories and a revival
[illegible] government of Theodoric. He
[illegible] had suffered much at the hands
[illegible]
[illegible] ation and at last the King [illegible]
[illegible] battle at Ravenna. The
[illegible] dard of the Goths was raised and fierce
[illegible] against desperate odds by the last King Totila.

[illegible] and losses incurred in this
[illegible] reduced the numbers of the Goths.
[illegible] while, they had fought and conquered
[illegible] rivals who had in turn succeeded
[illegible] last successful [illegible]
[illegible] they had to take the field against Narses.
[illegible] fell while bravely fighting against [illegible]
[illegible] forces. After his death, part of the Goths
[illegible] and fled, laid down their arms, wan-
[illegible] thousand men, under Teias' valiant brother
[illegible] held Cumae and the Sibyl's Cave a
[illegible] against the Gothic nation.

The above is a mere skeleton of the history
of this nation. The accounts of many historians finds that

1- This proportion in numbers of the

A. [illegible] "C. K."

2. A Brief Outline of the Story.

Sec. — The author states in "Seeing Japan!" th[illegible] his very numerous works this has been by far the most popular. He does not consider it by any means the best. Indeed he says it was only the urgent [illegible] of his wife, herself an author, that prevented [illegible] resigning the manuscript to the flames, as he [illegible]

[illegible] age and make ideal[illegible] [illegible] not historical that one feels as if [illegible] not a romance but rather a [illegible]

political meetings between men of two very di

their nation.

The second meeting, held in the cata

the Goths, of which the

[illegible] and [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] senseless and untiring [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] uses Silverius and others as his tools.
At the close of the meeting, he receives the news
that Theodoric is dying and that Amalasuntha
[illegible] wishes to consult him; hence, he hastens
to [illegible]. The book closes with a description
of the [illegible] at Ravenna and a vivid portrayal
[illegible] of the death of Theodoric. In conversation
with old Hildebrand, the King gives expression
to his remorse for the unjust execution of
Boethius and Symmachus and for the murder
of Odovacar. He then discloses his anxiety con-
cerning the future of his kingdom, showing
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
Possidonius, appoints Cethegus as Prefect of
Rome, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] gives his un-
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] as a manly youth of seventeen
and [illegible] Matasuntha, contrasting her
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

loyal to his successor, friendly to each of [illegible]

Book II has for its subject the reign of [illegible]. Gibbon first gives [illegible]

[illegible] energies towards making [illegible] revolution. To this end, a [illegible]

[illegible] defenses of Rome until it should become [illegible]

Project and included [illegible]

The secret plan of [illegible]

into their hands. At this

against the Goths enraged by the mur-
der of the nobles. In return, the queen is
[illegible] nations and an [illegible] returns.
Shortly, however, Theodora, thinking
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible], as the preliminaries have been arranged
[illegible]
tenable, Athegus induces her to abdicate
the Amals, whose wife the Prefect had en-
[illegible]
the worthless and cowardly Theodahat, de-
stroys wins the ear of the new King and ar-
rives at Rome to the Emperor in return for
certain personal honors and moneyed advan-
[illegible]

writes a messa-

this despatch himself,

the game. She will

had placed a dot before the messa-

to believe that it

proceed to drown herself in a fit

of the presence of her mortal enemies, Queen

The news of this murder, which, in the

he now makes the excuse for break-

Meanwhile, Cethegus, in a night [illegible] assembly at the catacombs, is announcing the [illegible] having betrayed [illegible] easily convinced [illegible] to be saved and [illegible] his [illegible] While [illegible] had, as we have seen, [illegible] Petros. Just then news [illegible] brought by [illegible] & Cethegus saw [illegible] by the crafty [illegible] Rejoiced [illegible]

[illegible] general took [illegible] in southern Italy. [illegible] with the [illegible] in vain [illegible]

The young girl was unable to rescue her
lady from the assault of her father.
[illegible]
[illegible] avenged the death of her father.
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

raised upon the shield. The first act is
it seizes to pursue and execute the mur-
derer.

Book I describes the events of the siege
of Veii. First is the vision, in which Juno
at the cost of her own. The remnant
of the forces withdraws northwards. Soon it
with warm welcome.

Vitigis entered Rome with his army on
that, in order to save bloodshed, two
combat for the mastery of Rome. So it
Next morning, Vitigis makes
on condition that he swears

his way to the new Pope's headquarters
and by offering aid to Vitiges.

Belisarius now journeys to the camp
and first had a long conference with
the historian Procopius, [illegible]

Silverius also visited the camp. Ethereus
[illegible]
showed to Belisarius that the Pope had [illegible]
[illegible]
ed, Rome and the territory within thirty
All popes to the end of time
[illegible]
the Prefect's charge. He de-
[illegible] had
ed Theodahat to confirm a gift of Em-
[illegible]
ved it a forgery by showing that the
[illegible]
upon parchment manufac-
before. Silverius thus
proved guilty of treason, was accordingly exile
Belisarius, who, in his turn, now deemed
[illegible]

[illegible] Vitiges to depose Vitigis. [illegible] to unite [illegible] ranks by an alliance with the House [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to compel her to marry the new claimant for the beautiful princess, who secretly loves Vitigis. [illegible] Vitigis tried to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] to the West. On the end, he was
[illegible] to withdraw to Ravenna, where he
[illegible] over by Belisarius. When Totila
[illegible] saw her people starving, she, in turn,
[illegible], dealt out bread to the poor. Again, in
[illegible], the sole remaining hope of the [illegible]
[illegible] are in an impregnable fortress.
[illegible], who, in the cloak of a beggar, has
[illegible] city.

Witheges now controls events through an
[illegible]. By means of a diversion, he
[illegible] Belisarius to make a sham treaty with the
[illegible], under which Belisarius is [illegible]
[illegible] into prison because he refuses to sign
[illegible] from the throne by Witheges,
[illegible] his will. Totila, in remorse
[illegible] to release him from the dungeon.
[illegible] to go, but yields to the wishes of his
[illegible] with, he flies on the back
[illegible] Repeat, pursuing them

[illegible] Justinian recalled Belisarius and [illegible]

[illegible] give the signal for revolution. She [illegible] invites Hildebad to single combat and treacherously murders him. Immediately after, Totila and his comrades [illegible] the crown upon the head of Totila.

In Book VI we learn how Totila re[illegible]

[illegible] hatred for Catherine, who has [illegible]
[illegible] northern mountain home, becomes [illegible]

[illegible] us at the fated King. Prince-
[illegible] dies at the sarcophagus of Isis [illegible]

[illegible] mortally wounded, fell at the foot of the
had concealed his secret

part in the war, Valeria had

[illegible] messenger to Totila, offering [illegible]
[illegible] nobly urged her lover to give [illegible]

[illegible] princess. This he
[illegible] to do.

[illegible]

[illegible] her favor a friend
[illegible] and Julius Flavius
[illegible]

[illegible]

was further led, through her hatred for Cato,
[illegible]

[illegible]

him. By his suggestion, she induces her
husband to pretend to accept the leadership
[illegible]

[illegible] and killed or imprisoned, as [illegible]
[illegible] the offers [illegible] of their treason to the

[illegible]

[illegible] festivities of Totila and Valeria. A
shepherd maiden entering brings [illegible]
the minstrel, is one of the [illegible], a Lacedæ-
[illegible] publicly convicted of treason by act, [illegible]

[illegible] to the messenger

[illegible]

[illegible] ing to aid the Gothic
northern lands. The
hardly have they gone,
the truce has been bro-
and an army

[illegible] battle at Tagina-
[illegible] and [illegible] is re-
my. Julius has a terrible
foster-father (Cethegus); he
fast about to follow him, but Totila
[illegible]
[illegible] as wrought by his private command
taken from the statue of Cæsar. (Cethegus

[illegible] by thus wounding his heart, and [illegible] at length, Sabila and Ethe[illegible] dora and the appointment of Kaves[illegible] commander of the army. The plans [illegible] are thus once more temporarily [illegible]

[illegible] the kussiers put on the helmet [illegible] of the King and, being mistaken [illegible] and, was killed by Ethequsto his [illegible] self. On the dead [illegible] committed suicide and seias vowed [illegible]

[illegible] found the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Ostrogoths, warned of his impending fate by their faithful friend Sisphax, rose when they saw that the hand of some noble Gothic leader, Totila, he hastened towards Ravenna, where the Goths were making their final stand. During that last terrible struggle, Sisphax, representatives of the mutual enemy of two nations, mortal foes, found each other. Sisphax rushes up a steep mountain-side and jumps [illegible]

[illegible] armory sound. Accordingly, with the bodies of Theodoric and Teias and the [illegible]

devastation of Rome by the Gal-

[illegible] are changed on a similar ground
[illegible] ers of different forces and places
changed; i. e., instead of Bessas,

[illegible] Totila; similar [illegible]

314. (4) Roman [illegible]

influence of the Prefect and is fixed at a
terribly wrong time. In fact it did not occur

favorable notes above: -

of the first siege of Naples, while in reality
he was far distant from that city. The

3rd. A few

[illegible] purposes

[illegible] explore

the soldiers through it.

this name, [illegible] is given

historical but without any [illegible]

ains as in the case of alteration

[illegible] the force and many sided use

strong colors through description

vital connection with persons and

the [illegible] is represented as a powerful [illegible]
[illegible] leadership of [illegible]
almost thirty years. [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
Valeria and Montanus.
may be placed the sto[illegible]
[illegible]
especially the visit of Germanicus and the suicide
of Statilius Tha.

[illegible] the [illegible] fictitious scenes are
[illegible] on artistic grounds. In the assembly
the national Fêtes, the sensations [illegible]
the condemnations and [illegible]
[illegible]
of King Harald at the betrothal
[illegible]
[illegible] the final battle at Cumae are
[illegible] the most striking additions of [illegible]

important passages omitted, or
ter or introduced into the narra-

It is the novelist must be conceded
the greatest possible liberty in choosing his
material. He engages to make the impression
of unity of the plot. So novel can
ject to the suppression of the na-
Paris, Tapestry

life, are so very radical and striking
more important cases must be
cases as we should naturally infer upon
the general plan and aim of the work
1st It is necessary to the elaboration
underlying the character
example of these cases we

[illegible] marries [illegible] instead of going into exile [illegible] volunteers [illegible] Empress [illegible] this is, in the novel, borne down [illegible] martyr-like death by an unscrupulous [illegible] character [illegible] Vitigis, when chosen King, insists [illegible] at once to snatch, with the [illegible] title to the crown. Other historians tell the story, so that the love turns to hate [illegible] Vitigis was a man whom a novelist might [illegible] nothing exceptional praise and he was often [illegible] "the first of the worthies of the Gothic [illegible] ever, his magnanimity towards [illegible]

Procopius II., p. 155.

and made a pasture for cattle, ...
restrained by a remonstrance and ...
Yet the citizens were either ...
wilderness. The ...
condition is quoted as the only ...
blood in Totila's veins. Instead ...
this ... was ... married ...
princess. ...

3 ...
...ability. A most striking ...
...able lack of fidelity to truth is ...
...more especially Theodora and ...
...a. The character of the former is ...
...blackened while that of the latter is, ...
...it mildly, glossed over. Totila ...

hate, the same tale of ...

... marriage nearly all the witnesses ... fully removed from the ...

... but here woman enticed from virtue ...

... Oman says, "Antonina was ...

... sake of adding ...

Gotho Rautzundis and [illegible]
and his sister Haralda have
[illegible] in Chapter IV in connection with
[illegible] invented. They sink into utter
[illegible]
[illegible] "
[illegible] shadows all others in
these nations for more than thirty eventful
years, and ascribes to him powers and deeds
more than kingly. This is the more misleading to the ordinary reader because
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

ing almost exclusively to aristocratic circles.

The work contains one almost su[illegible]

[illegible] ing or national assembly is [illegible]
ly pictured [illegible]
solemn act in [illegible]

Purposeless digressions and moral re-
flections of scenery and of the moods of
tal significance into such things, are
and trick.

[illegible] from [illegible]
characterized that they stand out in bold

truly remarkable.

The central figure of the work is
s. From him all potent forces em-
ite as characters become more
the course of events is in any
" " " "
two opposing forces —
between these two

years' duration and the multiplicity of
characters are taken into account. How
this unity is attained can only be answered
by a careful study of the meaning under-
lying the action of each
actor in the drama.

From the historian's point of view;
the character of Cleopatra is magnified
and distorted. Artistically, he is
true to life, for much
human in human form. Besides it
may be said that Fulvia in this case,
is something akin to the masculine
manner vā.

We may be superficially con
sidered in several ways: — 1st As the strong
connecting link between the chief actors,
who are so numerous and so important
individually that some one character is
absolutely necessary to
books certainly gives to the entire
work a unity not otherwise attainable.
2nd It may be regarded as a vortex [illegible]

Gothic characters. These have set's in

other, excusing himself on the plea of

3. of the Roman

be warranted in

condition and

being partial is necessarily narrow
and is a one-sided estimate of a many-sided
subject. It is necessary to make a deeper search.
A close study of the novel leads one to the
inevitable conclusion that Cetnegus was
not what would have kept him within the
limits prescribed for individual human re-
[illegible]
a broader view suggests the pos-
sibility that the central character [illegible]
is best regarded as symbolical.
[illegible]
in a sense more than political.
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] as the [illegible] after using [illegible]
to the nations that actually injured it or to
those who died in the act. That ancient Rome
should be exempt from the [illegible] of those
who committed [illegible] under the cannons.
[illegible] all under the [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]

love is greatly over-estimated; in the case of Antigone especially is it strained too far. This

of all female characters for whom no

Cassandra, who is pictured as a sin-

a woman, a certain mas-

fine firmness and strength of character
is one most admirable and most unex-
hausted trait. In Amalasuntha, strength
of character is almost inexplicably co-
existent with [illegible] heart.
In the [illegible] of crimes, this [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] ays laid down at least [illegible]
[illegible] ject of men. Certain it is that [illegible]
[illegible] ed women are admired in the
[illegible] thors, as an instance [illegible]
[illegible] age concerning which he wrote
[illegible] in Kautgundis a fine picture of
[illegible] wife in Vilatasumtha and
[illegible]

Vilatasumtha is a character and re-
[illegible] ited Vilatasumtha to marry Ver-
[illegible]

Chapter II.

causes of the Fall of the Gothic

[illegible] of a nation or of an individual
[illegible] unconsciously [illegible]
[illegible] made a statement [illegible]
effort to idealize both the [illegible]
Gothic nation as a whole. He turns to
the epic, or rather three of the numerous
epic histories pertaining to the Gothic race
[illegible] and attempts to depict in
the Gothic character. The [illegible]
conflicting influences [illegible]
and the [illegible] which [illegible]
the good old times of the [illegible]
northern ancestors. He pictures them as
[illegible] intelligent and [illegible]
[illegible] race of [illegible] physical [illegible]
They became [illegible] [illegible]
faithful, [illegible]
[illegible] and morally [illegible]
[illegible] and [illegible]
the [illegible]. [illegible]
what he would [illegible] the [illegible]
character only, and in so doing no doubt does
a great injustice to the [illegible]
in his work [illegible]
at the [illegible] of the [illegible]

Goth. - p. 395.

[illegible] his subject. He says that Darwin's
[illegible] of the race that endured terrible
[illegible] referred destruction to giving us
[illegible]

favorable to the Goths, while in this [illegible]
domination it was the chief cause of the down-
fall of the nation. We [illegible]
here in this view. We evidently fail to
appreciate the effects of mutual racial
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

between masters and servants and when the
arbitrary exercise of [illegible] power
nothing could restrain the passions and
feelings from opening [illegible]
under.

It was reserved for [illegible]
their native and the value of the
whole. [illegible] Watchman [illegible]
suggestion that the word [illegible]
of "Democrat" was [illegible]
under the Middle [illegible]
which [illegible]
may be applied to [illegible]
[illegible] find [illegible]
[illegible] not [illegible]
would [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[

It is this feeling of national discipline

state, art and science, language and
customs, the results of the old Romano-By-
ation and of
mediaeval period
As yet, this
extremes, simply

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[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

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